

Appl. No. : 10/777,401
Filed : February 12, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently amended) An electrical cord assembly comprising:
a cord suitable for supplying electrical power to an appliance;
a first plug member attached to the cord wherein the first plug member includes a threaded surface and wherein the first plug member is adapted to couple to a second plug member having an associated cord so as to provide electrical power thereto; and
a retainer assembly threadably engaged with the first plug member so as to be movable in a direction either towards or away from the first plug member wherein the retainer assembly includes an engagement member that engages with the cord attached to the second plug member and wherein the retainer assembly can be threadably moved on the first plug member such that the engagement member can be tightened against the second plug member to thereby retain the first and second plug members in contact with each other.

The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first plug member includes a body having a first and a second end and an outer surface extending from the first and the second end, and wherein the first end is adapted to be engaged with the second plug member and the second end is connected to the cord, and wherein the outer surface of the plug body comprises the threaded surface.

4. (Currently amended) An electrical cord assembly comprising:
a cord suitable for supplying electrical power to an appliance;
a first plug member attached to the cord wherein the first plug member includes a threaded surface and wherein the first plug member is adapted to couple to a second plug member having an associated cord so as to provide electrical power thereto; and
a retainer assembly threadably engaged with the first plug member so as to be movable in a direction either towards or away from the first plug member wherein the retainer assembly includes an engagement member that engages with the cord attached to the second plug member and wherein the retainer assembly can be threadably moved on the first plug member such that the engagement member can be tightened against the

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second plug member to thereby retain the first and second plug members in contact with each other.

~~The assembly of Claim 1,~~ wherein the retainer assembly comprises a collar that is threaded so as to be threadably engaged with the threaded surface of the first plug member, and wherein the engagement member is pivotally mounted to the collar so as to be movable between a first position and a second position.

5. (Original) The assembly of Claim 4, wherein the engagement member comprises two members that each attach to the collar and a cross piece interconnecting the two members, and wherein the cross piece includes an engagement surface that engages with the cord on the second plug assembly.

6. (Original) The assembly of Claim 5, wherein the engagement surface comprises a depression in the cross piece that is contoured so as to fit around the cord of the second plug assembly.

7. (Original) The assembly of Claim 6, wherein the engagement member further comprises a securing member pivotally attached to the cross piece so as to be movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the securing member in the open position allows the second cord to be positioned in the depression, and wherein the securing member in the closed position allows the second cord to be secured in the depression.

8. (Original) The assembly of Claim 7, wherein the engagement members are pivotally attached to the collar member such that the engagement member can be secured to the first cord when the retainer assembly is not in use securing the first and second plugs together.

9. (Original) A cord assembly comprising:

a first cord member suitable for conducting electricity;

a first plug member electrically coupled to the first cord member, wherein the first plug member includes a threaded shaft portion interposed between a head portion and a base portion, wherein the first plug member is adapted to receive a second plug member adjacent the head portion;

a ring member having threads that engage the threaded shaft portion of the first plug member, wherein the ring member is movable along the shaft portion between the head and base portions of the plug member; and

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a clamp member attached to the ring member so as to pivot about the point of attachment, wherein the clamp member couples with a second cord member that is electrically coupled to the second plug member, and wherein the clamp member secures the second plug member adjacent the first plug member when the ring member is threaded towards the base portion of the first plug member, and wherein the clamp member is loosened when the ring member is threaded towards the head portion of the first plug member.

10. (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein the first plug member comprises a male connector.

11. (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein the ring member comprises a collar that is threaded on an interior surface so as to be threadably engaged with the threaded shaft portion of the first plug member, and wherein the clamp member is pivotally mounted to the collar so as to be movable between a first position and a second position.

12. (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein the clamp member comprises at least two leg portions that attach to the collar at a first end and attach to a cross portion at a second end so as to interconnect the two leg portions, and wherein the cross portion includes a latch assembly that engages with the second cord member so as to be fastened thereto.

13. (Original) The assembly of Claim 12, wherein the latch assembly comprises a depression in the cross portion that is contoured so as to fit around the second cord member.

14. (Original) The assembly of Claim 13, wherein the latch assembly includes a securing component pivotally attached to the cross portion so as to be movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the securing component in the open position allows the second cord member to be positioned in the depression, and wherein the securing component in the closed position allows the second cord member to be secured in the depression.

15. (Original) The assembly of Claim 9, wherein the clamp member is pivotally attached to the ring member such that the clamp member is securable to the first cord member so that the second plug member is removable from the first plug member.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

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19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).

21. (Canceled).

22. (New) The assembly of Claim 3, wherein the engagement member comprises two members that each attach to a cross piece interconnecting the two members, wherein the cross piece includes an engagement surface that engages with the cord on the second plug assembly.

23. (New) The assembly of Claim 22, wherein the engagement surface comprises a depression in the cross piece that is contoured so as to fit around the cord of the second plug assembly.

24. (New) The assembly of Claim 23, wherein the engagement member further comprises a securing member pivotally attached to the cross piece so as to be movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the securing member in the open position allows the second cord to be positioned in the depression, and wherein the securing member in the closed position allows the second cord to be secured in the depression.